

Message Text

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67

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00 ACDA-19 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3944

INFO CINCLANT PRIORITY

COMICEDEFOR PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USUN NEW YORK 368

USOECN PARIS 508

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1064

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR IC UK NATO

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE AND NATO: PROGRESSIVE PARTY RESOLUTION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: RESOLUTION BY PROGRESSIVE PARTY (WHICH IS PARTY OF PRIMIN AND FONMIN (A) CALLS FOR GOI REVIEW OF ICELAND'S PARTICIPATION IN NATO IF NATO DOES NOT CONDEMN BRITISH "MILITARY AGGRESSION" AND DOES NOT TAKE STEPS TO STOP IT; AND (B) CALLS FOR ICELAND TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH UK IF BRITISH CONTINUE TO RAM ICELANDIC COAST GUARD VESSELS. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN A JOINT MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND ALTHING COMMITTEE

OF PROGRESSIVE PARTY HELD OUTSIDE REYKJAVIK SEPT 4 - 6, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS MADE PUBLIC YESTERDAY WERE UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED (INFORMAL TRANSLATION):

(A) "ALL FLIGHT ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION CURRENTLY BEING FURNISHED TO BRITISH NIMROD JETS BY ICELANDIC AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SHOULD BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY AND A DEMAND MADE TO NATO THAT IT INTERVENE SO THAT THE NIMROD FLIGHTS AROUND ICELAND BE DISCONTINUED: NATO SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT ICELAND WILL REVIEW ITS PARTICIPATION IN NATO IF NATO DOES NOT CONDEMN THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE BY THE BRITISH AND DOES NOT TAKE MEASURES TO STOP IT.

(B) "THE BRITISH GOVT SHOULD BE INFORMED WITHOUT DELAY THAT IF THERE IS FURTHER RAMMING BY BRITISH WARSHIPS AND TUGS OF ICELANDIC CUTTERS, THE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE SEVERED."

3. PRESS AND RADIO STATE THAT PRIMIN INTENDS SUBMIT THESE RESOLUTIONS TO CABINET SEPT 11 FOR GOI APPROVAL, AND IF APPROVED, AS IS LIKELY, WILL PREPARE LEGISLATION FOR ALTHING CONSIDERATION TO BRING ABOUT SEVERANCE OF TIES WITH BRITISH, IF CIRCUMSTANCES, AS STATED, CALL FOR IT. IT WAS ALSO STATED THAT WHEN FLIGHT INFORMATION TO NIMRODS ARE DISCONTINUED BY ICELAND'S CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES, AIR ACCIDENTS WILL BE RESPONSIBILITY OF BRITISH.

4. COMMENT: GOI OF COURSE AWARE THAT NATO NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR NIMROD FLIGHTS WHICH TAKING PLACE AT BRITISH INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT OF TRAWLER PROTECTION FLEET. NEVERTHELESS, ICELANDIC OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC IRRITATION OVER NATO'S POWERLESSNESS IN DISPUTE HAS GROWN TO POINT THAT THREAT TO REVIEW PARTICIPATION WILL PROBABLY RECEIVE WIDE SUPPORT.

5. THREAT TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ALSO LIKELY TO GAIN WIDE SUPPORT BECAUSE OF PUBLIC DEMAND, SINCE THE ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF SEAMAN A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, FOR GOI TO TAKE A TOUGHER STAND AGAINST BRITISH. INFORMED SOURCES ADVIS US THAT OPPOSITION INDEPENDENCE PARTY WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT THIS SO AS TO IMPROVE PARTY'S PUBLIC IMAGE AND AS BEING LESSER OF TWO EVILS TO DIVERT ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST ICELAND'S PARTICIPATION IN NATO.

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6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AT GOI BRIEFING PLANNED FOR NATO PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ARRIVING REYKJAVIK SEPT 11 FONMIN AGUSTSSON INTENDS PRESENT CASE AGAINST BRITISH AND MAY APPEAL FOR NATO INTERVENTION. IRVING

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